

REMARKS

In response to the pending Office Action, Applicants have amended claim 6 so as to address the objection thereto set forth in paragraph 4 of the Office Action. In addition, claim 9 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 10, which has been cancelled. Claims 11-26, which were drawn to a non-elected embodiment of the present invention, have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowance of claims 1-5 and the indication of allowable subject matter being recited by claims 6-8 and 10. As claim 6 has been amended to overcome the objection thereto, and amended claim 9 corresponds to claim 10 rewritten in independent format, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of

this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY

Date: 3/17/04

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